isolated stretches of similarly maintained hedgerow, within the immediate vicinity had no sign of the webs.

The majority of the webs were moderately small, but there was a proportion of much larger, really obvious, webs scattered throughout the whole length of the infestation. These were very obvious, even when driving past, particularly when I was specifically looking for them. The larvae were in all growth stages from second instar to fully mature, with several seen to be moving away from their communal feeding and living grounds.

I carried out a fairly comprehensive, but not intensive, survey of several miles of apparently suitable hedgerow within a three mile radius of the webs discovered at Billingford and saw no evidence of the larger webs that were so noticeable initially.

It seems most remarkable that along some 700 yards of roadside hedgerow there are 99 webs of *Eriogaster lanestris* larvae to be found and yet no others, apparently, anywhere in the immediate vicinity. This species was recorded by Barrett (1901) as "Plentiful in some seasons, its larvae forming large silken nests on the hawthorn hedges" but has not been in evidence in recent records. Skinner (1984) blames its serious decline in recent years on the wholesale destruction and indiscriminate trimming of hedgerows, combined with pollution from motor vehicles and the drift from agricultural pesticides.

From the very limited evidence from these few observations it seems possible that *Eriogaster lanestris* is making a resurgence at the moment and, certainly at Billingford, it is thriving on well-trimmed hedges, beside a major road, in an area of intensive arable agriculture so perhaps its decline could be attributed to other causes, or it is adapting to late 20th century conditions. The use of both elm and spindle as larval foodplants may also indicate adaptability, as neither are mentioned in Allan (1949) or Scorer (1913).

References. Allan, P.B.M., 1949. *Larval Foodplants.* Watkins and Doncaster. London. Barrett, C.G., 1901. Lepidoptera. In, *Victoria History of the Counties of England,* Norfolk, **1**. ed. H.A. Doubleday, 142, Archibald Constable, Westminster. Skinner, B. 1984. *Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles.* Viking. Middlesex. Scorer, A.G., 1913. *The Entomologist's Log-book.* George Routledge. London.

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***Scotopteryx peribolata* (Hb.), the Spanish Carpet (Lep.: Geometridae) at Studland, Dorset.**

On 12th September 1990, whilst running an m.v. trap on Shell Beach, Studland, Dorset, I recorded a single specimen of *Scotopteryx peribolata* (Hb.). The specimen, a male, was somewhat worn and I am grateful to Brian Baker and Norman Hall for confirming its identity.

According to Bernard Skinner (*Colour Identification Guide to the Moths*

of the British Isles, 1984) the species is well established in the Channel Islands but there are only three previous records from the British mainland. I have been unable to trace any records of this species since 1984.— D.A. YOUNG, 32 Valley Road, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire.

Abundance of *Omphaloscelis lunosa* Haw., the Lunar Underwing (Lep.: Noctuidae) in 1989 and 1990

I read with interest R. Fairclough's note in the *Entomologist's Record* (**103**: 40) relating to the abundance of *Omphaloscelis lunosa* at Leigh, surrey. At Ninfield, East Sussex, this is also a common species. However, in 1989 on the 21st, 24th and 25th September, this species was so numerous that I noted the species as abundant (not having the time to count numbers more accurately). Only on 23rd September did I estimate the number of individuals present, recording a figure of 450+.

In 1990 I was only able to run the trap on two occasions in late September; on the 28th, when I again recorded the species as abundant, and on 29th September when I conservatively estimated that 2,100 individuals were present.— M.PARSONS, The Forge, Russells Green, Ninfield, East Sussex.

***Meligethes haemorrhoidalis* Förster (Col.: Nitidulidae) in Surrey**

Two specimens of this species which was recently added to the British List (Parry, J.A., 1990, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **126**: 237) were collected on 31.iii.1991 from flowers of *Narcissus* by a stream on Bookham Common (TQ1255). Their identity was confirmed by dissection. Parry records the beetle from Southern England, with the site of discovery in Kent and one assumes that the above find is part of a continuing spread. I thank the National Trust for permission to collect at Bookham.— D.A. PRANCE, 209 Peregrine Road, Sunbury, Middlesex TW16 6JJ.

***Argyrotaenia ljungiana* (Thunb.) — a surprising foodplant**

I was interested to read the notes by A.A. Allen (*Ent. Rec.* **102**: 8) and C.W. Plant (*ibid.* 188) since the species had become very common in Grays, Essex over the last few years. It was particularly common near the entrance to Grays Chalk Quarry where much Sainfoin grew, and I was keen to discover whether this might be a foodplant but never managed to establish it as such.

On 20th April 1991 I was collecting leaves of *Pyracantha* from a site in West Thurrock as part of a survey concerning the spread of *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Zell.). The same afternoon when I had returned home amidst snow showers I was surprised to find that a moth had already emerged — the more so since it was *A. ljungiana*. Two days later, 22nd April, a further specimen emerged from leaves of *Pyracantha* from Hackney, London E8, where they had been collected on 10th April. It